

A HISTORY
OF THE
Establishment of Diplomatic Relations
WITH PERSIA.

Compiled Mainly from the Official Records and Communications
of the United States' Government, and from
Contemporary Writings.

MARIETTA, OHIO,
E. R. ALDERMAN & SONS, PRINTERS.
1887.

TO OUR CHILDREN :

It has seemed desirable that the Records and Papers, here Published, should be placed in your hands in compact and durable form. The principal labor in preparing the Papers has been assumed, with great pleasure, by your Mother,

R. R. DAWES,

CHAPTER I.

THE INTERVENTION.

STARTLING TELEGRAMS BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE—MISSIONARIES IN PERSIA IN GREAT PERIL FROM KOORDISH WAR—APPEAL TO OUR GOVERNMENT TO INTERVENE FOR THEIR PROTECTION—NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS—OUR GOVERNMENT APPEALS TO ENGLAND—PROMPT ACTION BY THAT POWER—THE SHAH OF PERSIA SENDS SPECIAL MESSENGER TO SEAT OF WAR—THANKS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ENGLAND—REPORT OF ENGLISH CONSUL GENERAL.

Oroomiah College, established by the missionaries of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, is one mile outside of the mud-walled city of Oroomiah, in Persia. On Mt. Seir, six miles away, is a summer retreat of the missionaries. High up on the slope of the lofty mountain, it is delightfully situated. It commands a view of the great plain of Oroomiah, which is dotted with villages, and, also, of the broad and beautiful lake of the same name. Long ranges of snow-capped mountains encircle the lake and plain and form the boundary of the extended view. Within the city of Oroomiah is another station of the missionary work.

When the horde of half barbarous Koords swept suddenly down from their mountain fastnesses and advanced upon Oroomiah, the missionaries were divided. Those at the College and Mt. Seir were swallowed beneath the flood of the invasion. Rev. Mr. Whipple alone, separated from his wife and daughter, who were at the College, remained in the city within the Persian lines of battle. Strangely enough, when this Koordish army came down upon them, the English Consul General, stationed at Tabriz, William G. Abbott, was a guest of the missionaries at the College, and he was caught with them within the lines of the Koords. The Sheik Obeidullah, chief of the Koords, gave him escort

through the lines. He was fired upon by the Persians, but fortunately escaped injury.

To the friends of the Missionaries in the United States, the first information came in the startling cable telegrams, here arranged in order of their publication in the daily papers.

THE KURDS IN PERSIA.

AN ENTIRE TOWN PUT TO THE SWORD—3,000 SQUARE MILES OCCUPIED.

LONDON, Oct. 28, 1880.—A dispatch from Meshed states that 20,000 Kurds under Sheik Abdullah, are advancing on Tabriz. They are now at Maragha. They have massacred the entire population of Souj Bolak. The Kurds occupy 3,000 square miles of Persian territory.

TEHERAN, Oct. 28, 1880.—It is said that the Kurds are firing into the town of Oroomiah in Northern Persia.

TEHERAN, Oct. 28.—There are rumors from Tabriz that the Kurds under Sheik Abdullah have taken Oroomiah. No further news is received from the British Consul at Oroomiah. The telegraph wires to Khoi have been cut for the last three days.

CAPTURED BY KURDS.

LONDON, Oct. 29, 1880.—A dispatch from Thorin says, it is reported that the Kurds have captured and pillaged Oroomiah.

The next series of dispatches gave at least the comforting assurance, that our missionary friends were still alive, and that the flag of their country was recognized and respected by the chieftain of the Koords. This was an unexpected and suggestive action, by the Sheik Obeidullah.

[Cable Telegrams.]

TEHERAN, Oct. 31, 1880.—It is officially announced that the garrison of Oroomiah has been relieved by 4000 Persian troops. The Kurds retreated southward. Only seven villages in the Salmas district escaped devastation.

LONDON, Nov. 1, 1880.—The Sheik Abdullah has sent a communication to the American Missionaries in Oroomiah requesting them to hoist the American flag above the Mission building, in order that it may be recognized and respected when the city is attacked by the Kurds.

TEHERAN, Nov. 7, 1880.—Sheik Abdullah advanced against Oroomiah with 8000 troops, but was repulsed with great loss. The Kurds are now encamped eight miles from Oroomiah.

TEHERAN, Nov. 12, 1880.—A former Persian Minister of War, has been sent to the seat of war in consequence of the dangerous illness and reported death of the Persian Commander-in-Chief. Some of the Kurdish Chiefs have submitted while others have fled.

This new Commander was the so-called Sipeh Salar, of whom much will appear in these papers.

The next message suggested the gravest apprehension. To have been spared by the Koords was to be a cause of Persian hostility towards the Missionaries.

[Cable Telegram.]

LONDON, Nov. 14, 1880.—A dispatch from Teheran says, there is great excitement among the inhabitants of Oroomiah against the christians, especially American Missionaries, for their supposed complicity with the Kurds. The christians, however, have convinced the Persian authorities that suspicions of complicity are baseless.

TEHERAN, Nov. 16, 1880.—2000 bodies are lying unburied within the environs of Souj Bolak.

TEHERAN, Nov. 18, 1880.—Sheik Abdullah attacked the Persians at Oroomiah on the 13th inst. The loss was heavy on both sides, but the Kurds were repulsed. They burned the villages and massacred 200 inhabitants in their retreat.

MR. DAWES TO MR. EVARTS.

MARIETTA, OHIO, November 20, 1880.

SIR: There are now at the mission station of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions at Oroomiah, in Persia, fourteen missionaries, ladies and gentlemen, who are citizens of the United States.

There can be no doubt that the present condition of war in the Province of Oroomiah subjects these missionaries to great peril. The cable messages say that the Mohammedan population is incensed at the missionaries, accusing them, falsely of course, with complicity with the Koordish Sheik, whose forces are confronting Oroomiah. It is believed by the friends of the missionaries here that it will be necessary for the Persian Government to extend special protection to them, or they may become the victims of Mohammedan fury, should they escape other dangerous contingencies of the war.

I therefore respectfully suggest that the grave emergency of the situation would appear to call for an immediate communication from this government to the Persian Government, requesting the necessary protection for the American missionaries.

I am moved to an urgent appeal to you for action in this matter by the fact that my sister, her husband and family, are of this party of missionaries.

I have, sir, &c.,

R. R. DAWES.

MR. EVARTS TO MR. DAWES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, November 26, 1880.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, calling the attention of this Department to

the perils to which you have reason to believe your sister, her husband and other American missionaries of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions are now exposed at the missionary station of Oroomiah, in Persia, in consequence of the condition of war in the province of Oroomiah, and the fact that the missionaries are falsely accused of complicity with the Koordish Sheik, whose forces, according to your advices, are confronting that province. In view of these circumstances you suggest that the emergency is one which calls for the intervention of this government with that of Persia for the protection of the American citizens in question.

In reply I beg to thank you for having called my attention to the dangers to which the ladies and gentlemen referred to in your letter are exposed, and to inform you that, as this country has no diplomatic representative in Persia, I will instruct Mr. Lowell, the Minister of the United States at London, to request the good offices of the British Government.

I have, &c.,

WM. M. EVARTS.

MR. EVARTS TO MR. LOWELL.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, Nov. 26, 1880.

SIR: I enclose herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter dated the 20th instant, from the Hon R. R. Dawes, of Marietta, Ohio, a member elect of the 47th Congress, in which that gentleman calls the attention of this Department to the perils to which he says he has reason to believe his sister, her husband and other American missionaries of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions are now exposed at the missionary station at Oroomiah, in Persia, in consequence of the condition of war said to exist in the province of Oroomiah, and of the fact that the missionaries are falsely accused of complicity with the Koordish Sheik, whose forces, according to the advices received by Mr. Dawes, are confronting the province.

As the representations made by Mr. Dawes in reference to this matter are doubtless very trustworthy, and inasmuch as this country has no diplomatic representative in Persia, I have to instruct you to lose no time in communicating to the foreign office the

statements contained in Mr. Dawes' letter in regard to this matter, with a request that the representative of Her Majesty's Government in Persia may be asked to use his good offices for the protection of these American citizens, for whose safety great anxiety is felt here.

I am, &c.,

WM. M. EVARTS.

MR. LOWELL TO EARL GRANVILLE.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

LONDON, December 7, 1880.

MY LORD: I have the honor to ask your lordship's attention to a letter, a copy of which is inclosed herewith, addressed by the Hon. R. R. Dawes, of Marietta, Ohio, a member-elect of the Forty-seventh Congress, to Mr. Evarts, in which that gentleman brings to the notice of the Department of State the perils to which he says he has reason to believe his sister, her husband, and other American missionaries of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions are now exposed at the missionary station Oroomiah, in Persia, in consequence of the condition of war said to exist in the province of Oroomiah, and of the fact that the missionaries are falsely accused of complicity with the Koordish sheik, whose forces, according to the advices received by Mr. Dawes, are confronting that province.

As the representations made by Mr. Dawes in reference to this matter are doubtless very trustworthy, and inasmuch as the United States have no diplomatic representative in Persia, I am instructed to lose no time in communicating to your lordship the statements contained in Mr. Dawes' letter in regard to this matter, with a request that your lordship will kindly ask the representative of Her Majesty's Government in Persia to use his good offices for the protection of those American citizens, for whose safety great anxiety is felt in the United States. Commending this matter to your early attention,

I have, &c.,

J. R. LOWELL.

EARL GRANVILLE TO MR. LOWELL.

FOREIGN OFFICE, December 10, 1880.

Earl Granville presents his compliments to Mr. Lowell, and

with reference to his letter of the 7th instant has the honor to transmit a copy of a telegram received this day from Her Majesty's minister at Teheran, relative to the measures taken for the security of the American missionaries at Oroomiah.

COPY OF TELEGRAM FROM MR. THOMSON.

FOREIGN OFFICE,
Teheran, D. 7. 30 p. m. R. 5. 30.

The ill feeling against the American missionaries at Oroomiah, which was prevalent for some days after Sheik Obeidullah's attack on the city, has now, I believe, entirely subsided.

The Sepah Salar is expected at Oroomiah to-morrow, and the Persian Government are sending him instructions by telegraph to take all necessary measures for the protection of the missionaries.

MR. LOWELL TO EARL GRANVILLE.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

LONDON, December 11, 1880.

MY LORD: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your lordship's note of yesterday, including the copy of a telegram, which has just been received from Her Majesty's representative at Teheran, in relation to the case of the American missionaries at Oroomiah, and I beg to express my cordial thanks for the prompt courtesy with which your lordship has been kind enough to accede to the wishes of my government in the matter.

I have, &c.,

J. R. LOWELL.

EARL GRANVILLE TO MR. LOWELL.

FOREIGN OFFICE, December 11, 1880.

Earl Granville presents his compliments to Mr. Lowell, and with reference to his letter of yesterday's date, has the honor to transmit a copy of a telegram received this day from Her Majesty's consul-general at Tabreez, through Her Majesty's Minister at Teheran, relative to the position of the American missionaries at Oroomiah.

[Inclosure 2 in No. 99.]

Have received a telegram, dated 10th instant, from Mr. Abbott, as follows: "Most recent information in letters from American missionaries is to the effect that they are on cordial terms with

Persian authorities at Oroomiah; the reports concerning them much exaggerated." When I received your telegram to-day, I called upon foreign office agent. He said he would address heir apparent on the subject, and promised to cause Sepah Salar, who was thought to be already at Oroomiah, to be instructed in the matter by special messenger.

MR. LOWELL TO MR. EVARTS.

[Telegram.]

LONDON, December 11, 1880.

EVARTS, Secretary, Washington:

British minister in Persia has intervened for protection of missionaries. Persian Government has instructed its representative at Oroomiah to this effect.

LOWELL, Minister.

MR. LOWELL TO MR. EVARTS.

No. 98.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

LONDON, December 11, 1880. (Received December 23.)

SIR: Referring to your number 78, of the 24th ultimo, I have the honor to acquaint you that immediately after its reception on the 7th instant, I addressed a note to Lord Granville requesting his kind offices for the protection of the American missionaries in Persia through the British legation in that country.

I received late last evening a letter from his lordship inclosing the copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's minister at Teheran which arrived yesterday.

I am also informed that a more formal letter from Lord Granville to myself has gone to his lordship for his signature, which will reach this legation in due course, and which states that instructions had been sent to Her Majesty's minister at Teheran in accordance with my wishes.

I inclose a copy of the correspondence which has already taken place, and I shall telegraph to you to-day the substance of the dispatch from Teheran.

I have, &c.,

J. R. LOWELL.

EARL GRANVILLE TO MR. LOWELL.

FOREIGN OFFICE, December 10, 1880.

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 7th instant requesting that instructions might be sent to Her Majesty's representative in Persia to use his good offices for the protection of the American missionaries and their families, resident at Oroomiah, who, it is feared, are in some danger owing to their being falsely accused of complicity with the Kurdish chief Sheik Abdullah.

I have had much pleasure in complying with the wishes of the United States Government in this matter, and, for their confidential information, I have the honor to inclose printed copies of some reports recently received at this office from Mr. Abbott, Her Majesty's consul at Tabreez, who, under instructions from Her Majesty's Government, proceeded to Oroomiah in the month of October to inquire into the condition of the Nestorian Christians of that district, and was at that place at the time of the Kurdish invasion.

I have, &c.,

GRANVILLE.

MR. EVARTS TO MR. DAWES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

WASHINGTON, December 14, 1880.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 20th ultimo, in relation to the peril to which certain American missionaries are thought to be exposed in the province of Oroomiah in Persia, and referring also to the reply of this Department, dated the 20th of last month, to the above-mentioned letter, I now have the honor to inform you that a telegram from the minister of the United States at London, dated the 11th instant, to this Department contains the intelligence that the British Government has intervened on behalf of the American missionaries in Persia, in conformity with the request of this Department.

I have, &c.,

WM. M. EVARTS.

MR. EVARTS TO MR. LOWELL.

No. 90.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

WASHINGTON, December 31, 1880.

SIR: Referring to instruction No. 78 of the 24th ultimo, requesting you to ask the intervention of Her Majesty's Govern-

ment for the protection of the American missionaries in Oroomiah, Persia, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches numbered 98, 99, and 102, reporting the action of Her Majesty's Government in extending to the missionaries in question the desired protection, and also furnishing interesting and valuable information in regard to their present condition.

The prompt action taken by Her Majesty's Government in extending protection to the missionaries, and in furnishing full information in regard to their present condition, is exceedingly gratifying to this government, and I will therefore thank you to lose no time in conveying to the proper quarter the thanks of the President for the prompt and timely action of the British authorities in reference to this matter.

I am, &c.,

WM. M. EVARTS.

MR. EVARTS TO MR. DAWES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

WASHINGTON, December 31, 1880.

SIR: Referring to the reply of this Department of the 26th ultimo, in reply to your letter of the 20th of that month, I now have the honor to inform you that three dispatches have been received from Mr. Lowell, the American Minister at London, from which it appears that the British Government has extended to the American missionaries at Oroomiah the desired protection. The dispatches in question also contain interesting details concerning the present condition of the American missionaries in Persia, which it will afford me pleasure to place before you when you next visit the Department.

I have, &c.,

WM. M. EVARTS.

MR. LOWELL TO MR. EVARTS.

No. 108] LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

LONDON, January 1, 1881. (Received January 17.)

SIR: I received from Lord Granville, on the 30th ultimo, two printed papers and to-day the copy of a telegram in relation to the position of the American missionaries in Persia. I have the honor to inclose copies of these documents in connection with my No. 102 of the 24th ultimo, and previous dispatches on the same subject.

I have, &c.,

J. R. LOWELL.

[Telegram from Mr. Thompson,]

TEHERAN, December 30, 1880.

I am informed by American missionaries at Oroomiah that they have been very graciously received by the Sepah Salar, and that the latter assured them that they would be protected, and that the reports circulated against them met with no credence at the hands of the Persian Government.

SIR EDWARD THORNTON TO MR. BLAINE.

* WASHINGTON March 15. (Received March 16.)

SIR: In compliance with an instruction which I have received from Earl Granville, I have the honor to transmit herewith copy of letters written by Her Majesty's consul-general at Tabreez, respecting the false reports circulated to the prejudice of the American missionaries at Oroomiah, of their complicity with Sheik Obeidullah, and the measures adopted by that officer to remove the erroneous impression thus produced.

I have, &c.,

EDW'D THORNTON.

[Inclosure in Sir Edward Thornton's note to Mr. Blaine.]

CONSUL-GENERAL ABBOTT TO EARL GRANVILLE.

TABREEZ, December 30, 1880.

MY LORD: I have the honor to transmit to your lordship copies of two dispatches and an inclosure which I have addressed to Her Majesty's minister at Teheran respecting the false reports circulated to the prejudice of the American missionaries at Oroomiah, of their complicity with Sheikh Obeidullah, and the measures adopted by me to remove the erroneous impression thus produced, as well as for the protection of those gentlemen and their families.

Trusting that your lordship will approve of the action I have taken in this matter, I have, &c.,

WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

CONSUL-GENERAL ABBOTT TO MR. THOMSON.

TABREEZ, December 10, 1880.

SIR: I had this day the honor to send your excellency the following cipher telegram, marked No. 14:

"American missionaries in their last letters to me state that their relations with Persian authorities at Oroomiah are cordial, and that the false reports regarding them had greatly subsided. On receipt of your telegram I had interview with foreign office agent, who promised to communicate with Veli Ahd, and that instructions on subject would be sent immediately by express messenger to Sepeh Salar, who was very probably already at Oroomiah."

During the investment of Oroomiah by the Kurdish insurgents

the American missionaries were placed in a very difficult position. Sheikh Obeidullah encamped with his army outside the town, in the immediate vicinity of the college buildings, and it would have been the height of imprudence if the missionaries had assumed a demeanor of open hostility towards him, or failed to take advantage of the friendly feelings he professed for them. But they were careful, at the same time, to give convincing proofs that their sentiments towards the Persian authorities were as cordial as ever and remained unimpaired. They behaved throughout with unexampled loyalty. Every communication they received from the sheikh was, at my suggestion, made known to the governor of Oroomiah; and when an assault upon the town seemed imminent they afforded shelter to as many of their Persian neighbors as their premises in the city would accommodate. This was done to remove the erroneous impression that they were only anxious to save Christians.

Monseigneur Cluzel, the French archbishop, having invoked my protection for himself and the members of the Lazarist mission, I sent a message to the sheikh on their behalf, and the Sisters of Charity were invited by the American ladies to reside with them at the college till the danger was over, but did not accept the invitation. The Union Jack floated side by side with the Stars and Stripes over the college buildings, and an inscription in Persian was affixed to the gates, "The residence of the English consul and the American missionaries."

Upwards of 300 Nestorians took refuge within the precincts of the American college, and a large number of Persians. The mission house in town was held by the Rev. Mr. Whipple, at considerable risk to his life.

I take this opportunity of stating officially that such reports as those which have been circulated to the prejudice of the American missionaries are mischievous slanders, completely devoid of truth. The United States have every reason to be proud of men who, at all times conspicuous for their practical piety, displayed at Oroomiah, Persia, amidst famine, pestilence, and war, a coolness and pluck which will never be forgotten by those who were present during that season of trial.

In making representations to the Azerbaijan authorities on behalf

of the missionaries, I have brought the preceding facts to their notice, and intimated that any molestation offered to those gentlemen or their families would be viewed with grave displeasure by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

[Inclosure 2 in Mr. Abbott's note to Earl Granville.]

MR. ABBOTT TO MR. THOMPSON.

TABREEZ, December 29, 1880.

SIR: I had this day the honor to send your excellency the following telegram in cipher, marked No. 18:

"Oroomiah letter, dated 23d instant, from American missionaries, informs me that they have met with very gracious reception from Sepeh Salar, who assured them of his willingness to afford them protection and that the Persian Government gave no credence to slanders circulated against them."

I inclose an extract of the letter referred to above.

I have, &c.,

WILLIAM G. ABBOTT.

MR. BLAINE TO MR. DAWES.

WASHINGTON, March 17, 1881.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 20th of November last, in relation to the dangers then threatening certain American missionaries at Oroomiah, in Persia, and to the subsequent correspondence on the same subject, I now have the honor to transmit herewith for your information a copy of a note [from the British minister], dated the 15th instant, with copies of the letters therein referred to, which were written by Her Majesty's consul-general at Tabreez, respecting the false reports circulated to the prejudice of American missionaries at Oroomiah, of their complicity with Sheik Obeidullah, and the measures adopted by that officer to remove the erroneous impression thus produced.

I have the honor, &c.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

CHAPTER II.

THE INTERVENTION FROM THE STANDPOINT OF OROOMIAH, PERSIA.

LETTER OF MRS. SHEDD DESCRIBING THE WAR—LETTER OF A
NESTORIAN LADY—JOURNAL OF DR. SHEDD—PROVIDENTIAL
COINCIDENCE IN ARRIVAL OF MESSENGER FROM THE SHAH—
SURPRISE OF THE MISSIONARIES—CHANGED Demeanor OF
PERSIAN AUTHORITIES—REV. DR. LABAREE OFFICIALLY AC-
KNOWLEDGES THE INTERVENTION—LETTER OF MISSIONARIES.

Let us now go back to October 28, 1880, and take the stand-
point of the missionary station at the College, near Oroomiah,
Persia.

The missionaries, except Mr. Whipple, are within the lines of
the Koordish army.

The letter given below, from Mrs. Shedd to her son, was car-
ried through the lines by the English Consul.

OROOMIAH COLLEGE, PERSIA, October 28, 1880.

The Koordish army has been closing in on Oroomiah, until last
Wednesday the Sheik came himself with an army and encamped
at Mar Sergis, about twenty minutes from Sier. The next day he
came down to the plain, and has since been spoiling the villages
and storming the city. Two or three nights they have attacked
the city; one night the firing was tremendous. The cannon and
the Martini-Henry rifles made a terrific din. Several cannon balls
whizzed through our college yard, but did no damage. We were
surprised that more men were not killed, but probably the dark-
ness prevented. The Persian General had gone out to meet the
Koords on the plain, and had fought one or two days, but on learn-
ing of the arrival of the Sheik, he returned to the city. The peo-
ple of the city seemed inclined to give up, but the soldiers fought
bravely, and the Governor determined to hold out. Of course, we

can not know what the counsels are on either side; we can only judge from what we hear is done. Within this yard are 500 people who have sought shelter and protection. Most are Christians, but quite a number are Mussulmans. The conflict is between the Koordish Soonees and the Persian Shiah's, the two great Moham-medan sects, and the hatred between them is very bitter. There is great danger also that the poor Christians will fall between the two and be ground to powder, but thus far we have been wonderfully preserved. The Sheik has ordered his soldiers not to touch the gentlemen of the mission, and threatened to cut in pieces any who shall molest us, but his army is a horde of wild, half savage plunderers, and must do many things he would not desire. It is like the invasion of the Goths and Vandals. On the other hand the Persian Governor and General is a friend of our mission, and is well acquainted with the English Consul, Mr. Abbott. He called here the day before he went out to fight the Koords, but the city people hearing of the friendliness of the Sheik to us are excited, and threaten violence to us and the Christians.

Mr. Whipple is in the city alone. The Doctor went in with Mr. Abbott, and they thought best for the ladies all to come here, while the gentlemen would take turns in staying in the city premises.

Doctor came out and Mr. Shedd and Mr. Abbott started immediately to go in and spend the night with Mr. Whipple. Before they could reach the city gate the fight had begun, and it was impossible to go without great risk of being killed.

The next morning Mr. Abbott and Dr. Cochran started in again, but were fired upon by the Persians.

For several days it was impossible to hear one word from Mr. Whipple, or for him to hear from us. Yesterday a little ragged boy, about Johnnie's age (twelve years), of his own accord, without telling any of us, left our yard and went to the city. He crept around the walls to a broken place, was shot at by the Persian guards, but the ball only grazed his breast and rags. He made a pitiful story, said the Koords had burned his village, killed his father and mother, and he was fleeing to the city. They let him pass, and he went to the mission premises, and he got letters from Mr. Whipple and others and returned, the Koords stripping

off part of his rags, but not further molesting him. He is certainly a brave little fellow. Our house is very full. Mr. Oldfather's family occupy the guest room and the storeroom below (for a kitchen). The English Consul has the bedroom on the first floor (which Miss Dean usually occupies when she comes out from the city to rest). The parlor is occupied by Miss Dean and Miss Van Duzee at night. In the day time their beds are taken up and put under the lounge. Johnnie sleeps in the dining room behind the clothes frame. Mrs. Whipple and her little girl occupy the study. Dr. Cochran and his family (who join with us and make one family) have the boy's room, Ephie sleeping there also. Harry has had an ulcerated sore throat, and is still quite sick, confined to the bedroom, where we keep linen and sleep ourselves. There are ten adults and seven children in our house, besides the native servants. The rest of the 500 are in Dr. Cochran's new unfinished house and hospital, our wash house, gatekeeper's room, cook house, and school bath room.

Very many of these people we have to supply with food, but we are able to do so, because the school stores and our own stores are mostly in for the year. We have watchmen on the towers and gates day and night. Although we could not defend ourselves, we do not intend to be taken unawares.

I can not write much. My cares are very great, as I have the family stores, and the mission here, who need things; all must come to me.

Mr. Shedd, of course, has his time full caring for so many people.

What the end will be we can not tell, but I expect that the Lord will deliver us out of all these distresses, and will set our feet in a wide place.

We are kept calm and quiet, not fearful and agitated. For a day or two we could get no word to or from Sier, but now we are both within the Koordish lines, and we keep a messenger going every day.

The Labarees, Mrs. D. P. Cochran, and Mr. Wright are there. Mr. Wright came down this morning to go away with the English Consul, who is very anxious to leave, and will do so if he can get a guard from the Sheik.

We are continually hearing rumors. Messengers and letters

from the Sheik to the Consul are frequent. Something is happening every hour to keep us excited, but there is no decided result. The Koordish army lies near us, going out nightly to plunder. The city has not given up, but we hear of deputations going out to see the Sheik daily. There is not much fighting now, only occasional skirmishes.

The Koords have no cannon, and their army hangs together loosely. It is easy to defend a mud built city, with narrow, crooked streets, but the Koords have cut off the water, and the wells are too few to supply so many men and animals.

The American flag hangs over our premises, which the Koords will respect, and probably the Persians, too. We have a British flag here. The great danger to the mission is from the irritation of the city people, because the Shiek has not molested the mission without their bounds, and also from the lawless, roving bands of Koordish robbers.

We, of course, have nothing to do with the quarrel, but to make peace, if possible.

These armies will eat up everything, and we see nothing before us but famine and misery on every side.

The little Christian village near us has been stripped; even the doors and windows of the houses are burned up. The people are all here in one yard, glad to escape with their lives.

Mr. Whipple wrote in good spirits from the city. He is well and cheerful.

The Lord does care for His people. We are learning the meaning of such expressions, "The Lord is my rock and my fortress, my strong tower," "The angel of the Lord encampeth around about them that fear Him."

This letter goes to Teheran with the Consul.

SARAH J. SHEDD.

Rev. Dr. Shedd adds a postscript as follows:

DEAR FRIENDS: We are safe, and have very good prospect of security to the end. I hope before long the way of communication will again open, so do not be alarmed in regard to us. God will keep us in His own keeping.

Truly,

J. H. SHEDD.

Extracts from a letter written by a Nestorian lady, Sarra, wife of Cassha Oshanna, and translated from the Syriac by Mrs. Shedd:

"The armies of Kurdistan, hungry and thirsty for plunder and murder, are filling the land. They spread out like the waters of a flood, destroying the villages near the city both Christian and Musselman. The people fled from the villages and their homes for their lives. The army of undisciplined wild men surrounded the city. The college yard was filled with refugees. Five hundred souls of both nationalities, found safety here. In the midst of these fearful sorrowful days came the death of little Harry Shedd. Two mission families were at Seir, very near the wild, fierce army. This castle was also a refuge for many poor fugitives. The mission yards in the city were filled with their neighbors, many of them of the highest class of Moslems. There was a special deliverance to the Nestorians. Thanks to the Lord the danger is past. All the people saw that God was working through these His servants, the missionaries. But for them, what an awful destruction would have overwhelmed this poor people!"

As soon as the gates could be opened, when the Koordish army retired, a funeral party ascended Mt. Sier to place in the grave the body of the little son of Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Shedd. This was on Nov. 3d, 1880. A very touching letter of Dr. Shedd, written that day, closes as follows: "The funeral took place to-day, and now all is over. We have received no letters for three weeks. One mail was robbed by the Koords; two more have not come, probably held at Tabreez. We sent letters Oct. 14, and again by the English Consul Thursday last. God has very providentially preserved us thus far and the Koords are now driven back. It seems like a wreck. We are coming out but Harry has gone down."

Extracts from a daily journal kept by Rev. J. H. Shedd, D. D., Missionary at Oroomiah, Persia:

TUESDAY, December 14, 1880.

The Sipeh Salar, Commander-in-Chief, and his hosts have arrived, and form a very large camp along the river valley.

WEDNESDAY, Dec. 15, 1880.

I am unwell to-day and unable to go out; so is Mr. Oldfather. The other three gentlemen called upon the Sepeh Salar. * * * The Sepeh Salar is the foremost man in Persia. The Shah has

sent him the seal of office as Sepeh Salar Azem, or High Commander-in-Chief and Minister of War. He was for many years Persian Ambassador at Stamboul and was on intimate terms with Sir Henry Bulwer. Dr. Wright, of the Nestorian Mission, called on him on his return to Persia in 1866. I think his title then was Hadje Mirza Hasseim Khan. It was at the time of the panic about Dr. Pfanders' book against Islam. He warned Dr. Wright not to circulate such incendiary publications in Persia. He has attended the expositions in Europe and speaks French fluently, and knows the world. Under his ministry the missionary work for Moslems was closed last winter in Teheran. We have felt some apprehension in regard to his visit here, lest he place restrictions upon our work; especially as Bishop Cluzel, the French Catholic Chief of the Papists is a friend of his and would be glad in any way to thwart our work.

THURSDAY, Dec. 16, 1880.

Several calls were made to-day. Captain Wagner, Chief of Artillery, is a Hungarian Protestant who is quite a soldier of fortune. He was with Maxamillian in Mexico, and is engaged in Sepeh Salar's service in Persia.

MONDAY, Dec. 20, 1880.

Mr. Labaree could not come to the city and make an effort to see the Sepeh Salar. Captain Wagner very kindly called and told the brethren in the city that Bishop Cluzel was doing his utmost to prejudice the Sepeh Salar against us and many of the Persians were reporting the wildest stories. The same word came from Tabreez that Cluzel has written to the French consul accusing us, or at least raising the suspicion (1) that we were the cause of the war by our being friends of the Sheik. (2) That our college was his head quarters during the war. (3) That we received and protected the spoils of the Koords. To these are added at a distance other stories equally slanderous and preposterous—such as this—that we built our new premises with an understanding with the Sheik; that two hundred loads of wheat are discovered on our premises; that a guard of Persian soldiers have put us under arrest; that we are to be banished, and even that our conduct has been so bad that all foreigners may be banished also. In Salmas the story has been told that our college has been razed to the

ground. The lies of these men are so patent generally that they confute themselves.

Captain Wagner dines every evening with the Sepeh Salar. After his call on us, he gave him an explanation of suspicious conduct and refuted the slanders for us. But it is thought very desirable for us personally to see the great man and plainly tell him the facts. This proved impracticable to-day.

TUESDAY, Dec. 21, 1880.

We went to see the Sepeh Salar but saw instead his brother called the Nazer el Mulk (Steward of the State), a man inferior in rank. He is a very affable gentleman who has traveled in Europe. We explained to him that as Americans we have no political interests at stake and no ambitions to gratify—that we wrote to Mr. Abbott the English Consul-General all we knew about the Koords and it was communicated to the capital before the war—that all letters of any political import had been shown to the government—that our long residence here seemed to attract all parties to us as friends—that we relieved all classes in the famine and kept all who came to us, Shiahs, Soonees, and Christians, five hundred in all, in our grounds during the seige. We wrote a polite invitation to the Sepeh Salar to attend our examination. He replied begging to be excused on account of pressure of business, but appointed an interview.

THURSDAY, December 23, 1880.

INTERVIEW WITH THE SEPEH SALAR.

The doors were closed. Mr. Labaree said to the Sepeh Salar we had made bold to invite him to our College (1) because he had expressed so much interest in education and seemed anxious to come, and (2) that we might have an opportunity to speak with him of the slanders reported against us. * * * That a disdatch from Teheran should come at the very hour of our call when Mr. Labaree was making his address, was a remarkable Providence, and surely shows that God has not forsaken us.

EXTRACTS FROM MRS. SHEDD'S LETTERS.

OROOMIAH COLLEGE, December 23, 1880.

The gentlemen of the Mission have been to call on the Sepeh Salar, Persian Commander in Chief, and on reaching his room, heard from him the glorious news that the President of the

United States has sent a telegram to Earl Granville, asking him to send word to the Shah that the American Missionaries in Persia are looked after by our government, or something to that effect. It is enough to make the authorities treat the missionaries with great respect and consideration. It is wonderful how God cares for us.

EXTRACT FROM MRS. SHEDD'S LETTER TO HER SON, DEC. 23, 1880.

The Missionary Sahibs, (gentlemen) called upon the Sepeh Salar and were politely received. He was in an elegant tent which was lined with red cloth embroidered with gold. This morning they visited him, and on reaching his room, now in the city, they heard from him the glorious news that the President of the United States had sent a dispatch to the American Ambassador in London, to request Earl Granville to inform the Shah that reports have reached America that the American Missionaries in Persia are suspected of having something to do with the trouble there, and requesting him to say to the Shah that these forty years the Americans have been engaged in religious and charitable work, that they have nothing to do with politics; requesting him also to see that they were effectually protected.

It is wonderful how the Lord cares for us. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Dec. 24.—This morning a man knocked at our bedroom door, and said, "the mail has come;" the first news from the outside world for six weeks. There were beautiful Christmas cards and a package of books for the children, from Cincinnati; and such kind words from friends.

CONTINUATION OF EXTRACTS FROM JOURNAL OF DR. SHEDD, FOR
DECEMBER 23, 1880.

After this dispatch the clouds all cleared away. "I am at your service, and any business you have shall receive attention." A long and free conversation followed, in which the truth was told in regard to Bishop Cluzel's misrepresentations about the famine distribution, as well as the present false reports. We can not feel sure that our government really has sent a dispatch for our protection, and for the first time startled this old despotism with a warning that the rights of American citizens and missionaries must be respected. We hope it is so. It makes us all feel a new

thrill of patriotic pride and strength. We are sure that God's voice at least is plain, and in Him we trust.

MONDAY, December 27, 1880.

The populace had a show of the artillery practice. A great crowd of the chief men and the people attended. The missionaries all had a special invitation. The best thing for us was the distinguished attention paid to Mr. Labaree in the presence of the Khans and the citizens. The attention was as marked and as public as possible, and ought to remove any suspicions as to our standing with the Persian government. We have reason to be thankful for our deliverance in the last few weeks.

MR. BLAINE TO MR. DAWES.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, April 14, 1881.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose herewith, for your information, a copy of a dispatch from Mr. Lowell, transmitting copies of letters from the Rev. Mr. Labaree, and the Persian minister in London, in relation to the British intervention on behalf of the American missionaries at Oroomiah, Persia.

I have the honor, &c.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

OROOMIAH, PERSIA, February 15, 1881.

DEAR SIR: A few weeks since, in an interview with his highness the Sepeh Salar, the Shah's minister of war, he told us that he had that morning received a communication stating that Earl Granville, at the request of the American minister in London, acting under instructions from his government, had telegraphed to the British minister in Teheran, directing him to request of the Shah's government the efficient protection of the American missionaries in Oroomiah, exposed to peculiar dangers in consequence of the invasion of the Kurdish Sheik Obeidullah.

His highness proceeded to assure us of the confidence of the Shah's government in the integrity and sincerity of all our actions, and its appreciation of benevolent labors among the subjects of His Majesty the Shah.

He relieved us of all anxiety lest the charges of the ignorant

populace of complicity with the Sheik had made any unfavorable impression on his mind, in cordial and emphatic language. At other times he took special pains in public to show his regard for us, and assure us of the fullest protection of the government.

When leaving he commended us particularly to the care of his brother, his excellency the Nasar-ul-Moolk, remaining as military governor, who has shown us marked attention, visiting our schools, and evincing much interest in the welfare of the Christian population.

We desire to express to our government, and to the British Government, as also to yourself, our hearty appreciation of the kind and very opportune action taken in our behalf. The peculiar exigency of our situation, such unexpected interposition on the part of our government, and its happy effects, lifting from us a heavy load of anxiety, all go to swell our gratitude and strengthen our loyal esteem for the noble administration at the head of affairs in our native land.

You would confer on us a further favor if you would express to the Persian minister in London, an intelligent Christian gentleman, I am told, our appreciation of the favor shown us by his highness the Sepeh Salar, a man of much merit and culture, and by the Nasar-ul-Moolk, a man of liberal opinions and kind disposition to foreigners.

With sentiments of very sincere personal esteem, I remain, in behalf of the American missionaries, very truly, &c.,

BENJ. LABAREE, JR.

[Inclosure 2 in No. 148.]

PRINCE MALCOM KHAN TO MR. LOWELL.

MARCH 24, 1881.

MY DEAR COLLEAGUE: I am plunged into deep grief; I can but feebly express the feelings which I experienced on reading the letter of the Rev. B. Labaree, Jr. I have always considered the presence of your missionaries in Persia as a providential blessing. I do not speak of their religious mission, but of the admirable and far more praiseworthy efforts which they make to shed the light of European education throughout the entire East. I can assure you moreover that the eminently liberal spirit of His Majesty, the

Shah, and the intelligent men who are now his counselors, fully appreciate the value of the services rendered by your worthy countrymen to the cause of civilization in Persia.

The Sepeh Salar and his brother are my intimate friends, and will be glad to learn, through me, how highly their sentiments are appreciated by the Rev. Mr. Labaree. As to myself, I have always gladly availed myself of every opportunity to lend my feeble aid to these apostles of a civilization which I so earnestly desire to see introduced into my country.

I have, &c.,

MALCOM.

MR. BLAINE TO MR. LOWELL.

No. 145.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

WASHINGTON, April 14, 1881.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatch No. 148, of the 25th ultimo, inclosing copies of letters from the Rev. Mr. Labaree and the Persian minister in London, in relation to the British intervention on behalf of the American missionaries at Oroomiah.

I have communicated the contents of your dispatch to the Hon. Rufus R. Dawes, the member of Congress who brought the subject to the attention of the Department.

I am, sir, &c.,

JAMES G. BLAINE.

It was a long time before the missionaries learned how the movement for the intervention was started.

OROOMIAH, PERSIA, July 6, 1882.

HON. R. R. DAWES, MARIETTA, OHIO,

DEAR SIR: We have been appointed a committee by the Oroomiah Station to express thanks to you for your very timely representations to the Secretary of State as to the imminent danger to which we all were exposed during the late Koordish invasion; and which led to such prompt action on his part in representing the case to H. B. M. Government craving her kind offices in our favor.

Through the gracious favor of Lord Granville, H. B. M. Minister, Mr. Thomson, at the court of Teheran, was instructed to use his influence with H. I. M. the Shah of Persia, to secure prompt

and efficient protection and aid to the American subjects in and about Oroomiah.

(An account of the situation of the missionaries which accords with what appears before is here omitted.)

This then was the situation when we called upon the Sepeh Salar. While we were there, a messenger came bringing letters to him. He opened and read them. After finishing them he remarked to us that he had just received a communication from his Majesty the Shah, in which it was stated in substance, that he was commanded to look diligently to the protection and welfare of the Americans and see to it that no harm came to them.

His Highness the Sepeh Salar informed us further that a telegram had been sent from Lord Granville to the British minister at Teheran and that this order was the result. He then assured us that it would be his pleasure to see that every thing necessary to our welfare should be attended to. Since that time we have experienced no further trouble worth mentioning. We all feel that it was a peculiar and kind Providence which brought that message in our behalf; and the time also in which it came could not have been more opportune. We all do feel very grateful to you, dear sir, for the leading part you had in its accomplishment and take this method of so giving expression to our feelings.

Once more you have placed us under obligations in the interest you have taken, in your official capacity, in our welfare in endeavoring to establish diplomatic relations between our government and that of the Persian. Although as yet nothing definite has been accomplished, yet we are aware in a measure perhaps, of the care and attention you have given the subject and assure you that we appreciate it most sincerely.

Again we beg you to accept from us all our most cordial thanks and gratitude. In behalf of the Oroomiah Station,

JOS. P. COCHRAN, M. D.
W. L. WHIPPLE.

CHAPTER III.

BEFORE CONGRESS.

NO PUBLIC INTEREST TO AID.—TEMPER OF 47TH CONGRESS.—
RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY INTRODUCED.—PROMPTLY ADOPTED.
—EFFORT TO BRING SUBJECT BEFORE THE WHOLE HOUSE.—
SHARP FIGHT TO HOLD THE FLOOR.—OPPOSITION BENEFITS THE
EFFORT.—LETTER FROM REV. DR. LABAREE. •

After what had transpired, it was very natural that “the member of Congress, who brought the subject to the attention of the Department,” should make an effort to secure the passage by Congress of some measure for a better protection of American citizens in Persia. There was no public opinion to move Congress to action in this particular matter. The public had no information on the subject, and consequently cared nothing about it. The only favorable symptom discernable was a general disposition in Congress to talk loud and long in favor of protection of American citizens in foreign lands. But this talk was mainly directed toward citizens of Irish extraction who were said to be confined in British prisons on suspicion of having been engaged in stirring up sedition. Action upon that subject, such as was asked, would be in the nature of a menace to England. It was quite manifest that Congress would be very slow to act in that direction. But for individual members to burn with indignation on the subject did not amount to a cause of war. The effect was to array a conservative force which would oppose violent demands but give friendly hearing to practicable measures.

The first step taken will be found in the proceedings of the House of Representatives for February 6th, 1882, (Record 47th Congress, page 930):

AMERICAN CITIZENS IN PERSIA.

Mr. Dawes submitted the following resolution; which was read, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

Resolved, That the Secretary of State is requested to furnish to

the House of Representatives, if not in his opinion incompatible with the public interest, the correspondence on file in his office relating to the perils and difficulties in which American citizens, missionaries at Oroomiah, Persia, were involved by the late Koordish war; and also the correspondence with the British Government which resulted in the intervention by that government for their protection, and any additional information he may deem proper with reference to the propriety of establishing diplomatic relations with the Government of Persia to secure a better protection and consideration for American citizens in that country.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs acted with great promptness and entire unanimity in favor of this resolution. On February 13th, 1882, one week after its introduction, the resolution was passed by unanimous vote of the House of Representatives. (Proceedings House of Representatives):

AMERICAN CITIZENS IN PERSIA.

MR. WILLIAMS, of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit a privileged report. I am instructed by the Committee on Foreign Affairs to report back the following resolution of inquiry in relation to the protection of American citizens in Persia, and recommend its adoption.

The SPEAKER. The resolution will be read.

The Clerk read the resolution.

* * * * *

The resolution was agreed to.

We have always suspected that our excellent friend, the Hon. Charles G. Williams, of Wisconsin, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, did nothing to retard the railroad speed at which the resolution went through.

Extracts from your mother's letters from Washington say: "At our table are Judge and Mrs. Humphrey and two children, Charles G. Williams, wife and daughter, and our family. It is a jovial and often hilarious party of fellow boarders and we will long remember the pleasant winter spent in their company. This Mr. Williams is the man whose little boy went with him on one of his stumping tours and after hearing his father speak once said: "Papa, that was first rate, where are we going to show next?"

Mr. Williams was one of the most effective orators in the 47th Congress, and his high character and ability, with ten years of service in the House, had given him very great influence. As

Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs his support of the measure in all its stages was a most important factor in its ultimate success.

The resolution of inquiry having gone to the Secretary of State, no further progress could be made until a response had been received, and the character of the reply would, also, have a controlling influence.

But it was thought advisable in the meanwhile to make

AN EFFORT TO BRING THE SUBJECT BEFORE THE WHOLE HOUSE.

The only way to do this was to offer an amendment to a general appropriation bill and take the floor in support of it.

The Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation Bill was being considered section by section. Debate was limited to five minutes for each member, who addressed the House in support of or against an amendment. Proceedings of H. R. March 5, 1882 :

The Clerk read as follows:

For salaries of envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary, as follows: To Chili and Peru, at \$10,000 each; to Turkey, \$7,500; in all, \$27,500.

MR. DAWES. I desire to offer an amendment which I send to the desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

In line 19, after the word "dollars," insert the words, "and the minister to Turkey shall also be accredited to Persia."

MR. DAWES. Mr. Chairman, Persia is one of the oldest, and was, at one time, the most powerful nationality upon earth. The United States is to-day the youngest and most powerful, and between these two nationalities no diplomatic relations exist. But the necessity for such diplomatic relations arises not from any sentiment but from that duty which has been so eloquently dwelt upon on this floor, the duty of the United States Government to protect American citizens within the limits of that nationality, as within the limits of all others.

Persia has become effete, superannuated, and insignificant among the nations of the earth because of the blighting influence of Mohammedanism. The young and vigorous Christian civilization of America has stretched out an arm to lift that nation from its moral degradation. Forty years ago an American mission, the first

Christian mission in that country, was established by Americans.

MR. HISCOCK. Will the gentleman yield to me for a question?

MR. DAWES. Certainly.

MR. HISCOCK. Have we any treaty relations with Persia?

MR. DAWES. I am not able to answer the gentleman's question.

MR. HISCOCK. Is there in existence any treaty with Persia?

MR. DAWES. I do not know.

MR. HISCOCK. Why should we send a minister there if we have no treaty?

MR. DAWES. If the gentleman will allow me to conclude my remarks, and not occupy my time, I will make it clear before I finish what necessity there is for establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. That is the very point I desire to make in this connection.

This mission was established forty years ago, and to-day there are American citizens located all through Persia, laboring for the advancement of civilization and Christianity in that country.—Twenty American citizens, ladies and gentlemen, are located at a point in the interior of that country at one of these missions.

These people were just outside of the city of Oroomiah. This city of Oroomiah lies near the adjoining province of Koordistan, a mountainous region controlled by a powerful Sheik of the nationality of Koords, nominally a subject of Turkey, who, in the war with Russia, with his half-savage warriors, battled for the Turkish government, and got back home to his mountain fastnesses with the Martini-Henry rifles in the hands of his warriors, and with the spirit of war and conquest inflamed in his soul. Suddenly the Sheik came down upon Persia with an army of 20,000 men, and at once assaulted the city of Oroomiah, and surrounded the mission station from which floated the stars and strips and the banner of England. This savage chieftain respected those emblems and protected our citizens. He showed deference to our remote but powerful nationality, of which he had heard, but of which he had little knowledge.

[Here the hammer fell.]

MR. BURROWS, of Michigan. I desire to say, in reference to the amendment proposed by the gentlemen from Ohio, that,

whether it be material, or otherwise, I think we have gone quite far enough in the direction he proposes; and such a measure demands more careful consideration than can be given to it by the committee. There are objections, however, to this amendment which should not be lost sight of. In the first place we have no treaty relations—I believe none whatever—with Persia; and in addition to that, Persia sends no representative to this Government. I hope the amendment will not be adopted.

MR. DAWES. I withdraw the amendment.

MR. ORTH. I renew the amendment and yield my time to the gentleman from Ohio.

MR. BURROWS, of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, I desire to raise the point of order that no gentleman can take the floor in the committee and yield to another, for the reason, if this is admissible, a member who could secure time thus yielded to him might occupy the floor indefinitely.

MR. DAWES. I shall occupy the floor but a brief time. This is an important matter.

MR. BURROWS, of Michigan. I am only anxious to proceed with the bill.

MR. ATKINS. I gave notice that I should object to gentlemen yielding the floor in this manner. We never can get through the bill in this way.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. Dawes] withdrew his amendment, and the gentleman from Indiana, [Mr. Orth] renewed it, as he had a right to do, and yielded his time to the gentleman from Ohio.

MR. ATKINS. I make the point of order that that cannot be done if any other gentleman claims the floor.

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair overrules the point of order.

MR. DAWES. When this information was received by the friends of the missionaries they appealed to this Government. The Secretary of State replied that this Government had no diplomatic relations with Persia and that it was not in the power of this Government to protect American citizens there in peril, but that the kindly offices of the British Government would be invoked. They were invoked. A telegram was sent to London and the British Government telegraphed to Teheran, the capital of Persia. The

Persian Government acted promptly. Couriers were sent to the seat of war and the intervention was just in time to save the missionaries, because this Sheik had incited the war, as are incited most wars of the East, in the name of a religious and fanatical issue, on the part of one sect of the Mohammedan Church against another. The Persians accused the missionaries of complicity with the Sheik because they were Christians, and unmolested by him, and at the very moment when the missionaries fell within the power of the Persian authorities this intervention arrived and saved them from the extremest peril. Thus through the intervention of England, for the first time in the history of Persia, that nationality was ready and willing to protect American citizens.

But shall the United States continue to invoke England for power to discharge her duty of protecting her own citizens?

It is for these reasons I have desired to bring the subject before this House—I do not care what form the legislation takes. The necessity for such direct diplomatic relations with that nationality as will assert the power and dignity, and discharge the duty of this Government for the protection of American citizens there as well as in Ireland and elsewhere, is manifest, and I regard the duty to establish them as imperative.

It was not expected that the House would adopt any amendment thus sprung upon an appropriation bill. But it was hoped that the attention of a full House might be captured to hear a brief statement of the case. We had been treated to much declamation in denunciation of the British government for alleged outrages against the rights of American citizens in Ireland. This had gone so far that when a member began to address the House on that subject the common remark was, “who is twisting the tail of the British lion now?” But here was a case where the United States had actually been obliged to ask England’s aid in protecting her citizens and England had responded to the appeal with the greatest promptness and most generous good will. The fact was a recent one, and it was something fresh and worth hearing on the side of the persecuted but patient lion.

In offering this amendment to a general appropriation bill a determined antagonism was encountered from members of the Committee on Appropriations, having the bill in charge. No less than

three members of that Committee, including its chairman, antagonized the member addressing the House with interruptions, and by raising a point of order. The real reason for this was, that a discussion of the amendment retarded the rapid progress of their bill, which they were very anxious to push to a final passage on that day. The frivolous character of their objection is manifest in the fact, of which we all appeared to be ignorant, that a treaty with Persia had been in existence for many years. But the fight for the floor was gallantly supported by members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The venerable Godlove S. Orth, of Indiana, quickly renewed the amendment, when the hammer fell at the end of the first five minutes, and yielded his time to the "gentleman from Ohio" to enable him to conclude his remarks. Mr. Rice, of Massachusetts, also a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, was in the Speaker's chair, presiding over the Committee of the Whole House. He promptly over-ruled the point of order raised to crowd the member from Ohio from the floor. This discussion had well served the purpose in view. The racket raised by the gentlemen from the Committee on Appropriations, and their failure to cut us out, greatly aided in arresting the attention of the House, and they should have their proper credit. Their ignorance of the subject can be overlooked in view of the benefits rendered to the cause.

While we awaited the action of the Secretary of State in response to the resolution of inquiry adopted by the House of Representatives, on February 13, a letter was received from the Rev. Dr. Labaree, then at Constantinople, which suggested a line of action. This letter arrived before the amendment was offered to the appropriation bill and controlled its form. The information it contained as to the existence of a treaty with Persia should have been more carefully heeded.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Jan 18th, 1882.

HON. RUFUS DAWES, House of Representatives, Washington.

DEAR SIR: Allow me to write you on a matter of interest to your friends in Persia. You know very well the difficulties of our situation the past year or two. You must know, through your greatly esteemed sister, how fully we appreciate your action and successful efforts in our behalf at the State Department in Wash-

ington. My object in writing to you now is to enlist your influence still further in the same quarter in the interest of the Persian missionaries.

I am spending some months here in Constantinople attending to some printing for our mission. I find our Minister resident here, Gen. Lew Wallace, standing high in the esteem of our countrymen, who hope no revolution of the political whirligig at Washington, will involve him in any change. He is interested in what I have told him of the Americans residing in Persia, and takes pains to cultivate friendly relations with the Persian Ambassador here, for our sakes. I have suggested to him what we missionaries have long wished for, an official visit from himself to Persia. The objects in view would be two-fold, viz: to bring our government of growing influence among the nations of the world more prominently to the notice of the Shah's government, and to impress the Persians with our nation's regard for its citizens residing among them.

My attention has just been called to a report of ex-Governor Noyes, late Minister of the United States to France, on the position of American missionaries and teachers in Turkey. This report was made at the request of the State Department. Now let General Wallace be instructed to do the same in regard to Persia. Let him visit our schools and college, our dispensaries and hospital, our printing press, &c. Let him learn from direct contact with the British officials in Persia, so long our warm friends and protectors, their estimation of what America is doing for the dissemination of a higher civilization, more thorough education, and a higher type of Christianity in the Shah's dominion. Let him also, if you please, consider the commercial relations between the United States and Persia, and in what ways advantage may be taken of the already existing treaty between the two nations. I am sure that such a special mission, conducted with a due regard to a proper impression on the minds of the Shah, his Ministers and his subjects, would greatly redound to the credit of our nation, and contribute materially to the better protection of United States' citizens residing in that land. I have written Dr. Shedd that he and the other gentlemen should write you on this matter, but have ventured to anticipate their doing so, by urging it myself on your attention, thereby saving some time for the necessary negotiations and arrangements. With very sincere respect,

Truly Yours, BENJ. LABAREE.

CHAPTER IV.

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT—SECRETARY OF STATE APPROVES OF AN “INAUGURATION OF MORE INTIMATE RELATIONS WITH PERSIA”—LIST OF PAPERS SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS—IMPORTANT PAPER FROM COL. FOSTER, MINISTER TO RUSSIA—JOINT RESOLUTION INTRODUCED—DANGEROUS NOTICE OF THE SUBJECT—ATTACK ON THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The next action was on March 31st, 1882. A message was received from the President of the United States in response to the resolution of inquiry passed by the House on February 13th. When the message came it was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed, together with the following papers:

PROTECTION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN PERSIA.—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, ACCOMPANIED BY A COMMUNICATION FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

To the House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith a report of the Secretary of State and accompanying documents in response to a resolution of the House of Representatives, of February 13, 1882, touching the protection of American citizens in Persia, and the establishment of Diplomatic relations with that country.

CHESTER A. ARTHUR.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,

Washington, March 30, 1882.

To the President:

The Secretary of State, to whom was addressed a resolution of the House of Representatives requesting him, if in his opinion not incompatible with the public interest, to furnish to that body—

A copy of the correspondence on file in his office relating to the

perils and difficulties in which American citizens, missionaries at Oroomiah, Persia, were involved by the late Koordish war, and also a copy of the correspondence with the British Government which resulted in the intervention by that Government for their protection, and any additional information he may deem proper with reference to the propriety of establishing diplomatic relations with the Government of Persia to secure a better protection and consideration for American citizens and American interests in that country—has the honor to lay before the President for transmission to the House of Representatives, the papers that are described in the accompanying list, and which, so far as the files of the Department show, are all that it possesses coming within the scope of the resolution.

With especial reference to so much of the resolution as contemplates an expression of views as to the desirability of establishing diplomatic relations with Persia, the Secretary of State invites attention to the dispatch of the United States minister at St. Petersburg, dated May 21, 1881, in which Mr. Foster reports a conversation had by him with an extraordinary envoy of Persia, visiting the Russian capital. It is thought that in many respects the inauguration of more intimate relations with Persia would be an advantage to American interests, both personal and commercial.

Respectfully submitted.

FRED'K T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

WASHINGTON, March, 30, 1882.

LIST OF ACCOMPANYING PAPERS.

- No. 1.—Mr. Dawes to Mr. Evarts, November 20, 1880.
- No. 2.—Mr. Evarts to Mr. Dawes, November 26, 1880.
- No. 3.—Mr. Evarts to Mr. Lowell, No. 78, November 26, 1880.
- No. 4.—Mr. Lowell to Mr. Evarts. Telegram, December 11, 1880.
- No. 5.—Mr. Lowell to Mr. Evarts, No. 98, December 11, 1880. (With inclosures.)
- No. 6.—Mr. Lowell to Mr. Evarts, No. 99, December 13, 1880. (With inclosures.)
- No. 7. Mr. Lowell to Mr. Evarts, No. 102, December 14, 1880. (With inclosures.)
- No. 8.—Mr. Evarts to Mr. Dawes, December 14, 1880.
- No. 9.—Mr. Evarts to Mr. Lowell, No. 90, December 31, 1880.
- No. 10.—Mr. Evarts to Mr. Dawes, December 31, 1880.
- No. 11.—Mr. Lowell to Mr. Evarts, No. 108, January 1, 1881. (With inclosures.)
- No. 12.—Sir Edward Thornton to Mr. Blaine, March 15, 1881. (With inclosures.)
- No. 13.—Mr. Blaine to Mr. Dawes, March 17, 1881.
- No. 14.—Mr. Blaine to Sir Edward Thornton, March 18, 1881.
- No. 15.—Mr. Lowell to Mr. Blaine, No. 148, March 25, 1881. (With inclosures.)

- No. 16.—Mr. Blaine to Mr. Dawes, April 14, 1881.
 No. 17.—Mr. Blaine to Mr. Lowell, No. 145, April 14, 1881.
 No. 18.—Sir Edward Thornton to Mr. Blaine, May 19, 1881. (With inclosures.)
 No. 19.—Mr. Foster to Mr. Blaine, No. 113, May 21, 1881.
 No. 20.—Mr. Blaine to Mr. Dawes, May 26, 1881.
 No. 21.—Mr. Blaine to Mr. Foster, No. 78, June 21, 1881.
 No. 22.—Memorandum, furnished to Mr. Frelinghuysen by the British minister.
 No. 23.—Mr. Frelinghuysen to Mr. Lowell. Telegram, March 23, 1882.
 No. 24.—Mr. Frelinghuysen to Mr. Lowell, No. 340, March 25, 1882.

Most of the above cited papers appear in this publication. The very important paper, No. 19, especially referred to by Secretary Frelinghuysen, is given next. It is an interesting and very important fact, that the Sepeh Salar, the Commander-in-Chief before whom the missionaries had appeared at Oroomiah, when the intervention came, should have made this communication to our Minister at St. Petersburg.

MR. FOSTER TO MR. BLAINE.

No. 19.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
 ST. PETERSBURG, May 2, 1881.

SIR: Reciprocating a visit which had been made to the legation on yesterday, I called upon his highness Sepeh Salar, Azam Hadji Mirza Houssein Kahn, Ambassador Extraordinary of the Shah of Persia, sent to congratulate the Emperor of Russia on his accession to the throne. In the course of the conversation which ensued, the prince expressed regret that the United States did not maintain some kind of official relations with Persia, notwithstanding a treaty of friendship and commerce existed contemplating such relations. He said that American vessels visited Persian ports, and there were American citizens in the country, and that a charge d'affaires could be maintained at no great expense, as living was very cheap in Teheran.

I replied that I recognized the desirability of having more intimate relations with his country, and I would suggest to my government the propriety of taking some action to that end. I said that I desired him, on his return to Persia, to express to His Majesty the Shah my thanks, as the diplomatic representative of my government nearest to his dominions, for the protection and favor which had been extended to the American citizens resident in his territory, and to assure His Majesty that all his acts in that direc-

tion would be highly gratifying to the Government of the United States.

The prince stated that the American missionaries in Persia, who constituted the greater portion of our citizens in that country, had been charged with complicity with the Turks during the recent Kurdish troubles, and that he had been appointed by his government to investigate the charge, which he had found to be without foundation, and he had thus been able to vindicate them from what would have proven a serious offense.

I expressed my gratification at this result, and assured him that such charges did not comport with the character and usual conduct of American missionaries, who were accustomed to loyally respect the authorities and observe the laws of the countries in which they resided. In this connection it may be proper to remark that when I passed through London a year ago, on my way to my present post, I met in St. James Palace the Persian minister to Great Britain, who expressed the same wish, that our government would send a representative to his country. I have been informed that when the Shah was in the city some years ago, in an interview with the then consul-general at St. Petersburg, he also manifested a similar desire. From all these utterances I have no doubt that a representative of our government would receive a hearty welcome.

Our commercial relations with Persia at present are very limited, but it might offer something of a field for American enterprise if properly encouraged. As already mentioned, the missionaries established there are the chief American residents needing official protection, and in the absence of which they have, I believe, had resort to the English diplomatic and consular representatives. Should it not be deemed practicable to establish a permanent representative in the country, it might be regarded as desirable by the Department to have either the minister at St. Petersburg or at Constantinople, at some convenient time, pay a visit to the Shah at Teheran as the bearer of a letter from the President. I think that such a visit would have a beneficial effect in securing more protection to American residents, who are often exposed to great peril, and might lead to the opening of some commercial relations or the introduction of American enterprises. I have no doubt that either the Russian or the Turkish Government would lend its

good offices to the American representative, by securing a safe passage to and a friendly reception at Teheran. * * *

I am, sir, &c.,

JOHN W. FOSTER.

The suggestion, so well presented by Dr. Labaree, of an official visit to Persia by the American Minister at Constantinople appears in the communication of Col. Foster, then Minister to Russia. The favorable recommendation of the Secretary of State supported by so strong a case as that presented in the accompanying papers gave great encouragement. Adopting the best plan then suggested, a joint resolution was framed which authorized the Secretary of State to cause the proposed official visit to be made. It will be observed that the Secretary of State did not suggest any form of action. (Proceedings H. R. April 17, 1882).

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PERSIA.

MR. DAWES introduced a joint resolution (H. R. No. 195) authorizing the Secretary of State to take the necessary measures for the establishment of Diplomatic relations with Persia, and making appropriation for that purpose; which was read a first and second time, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

On the 25th of April, this resolution being in the hands of the Committee on Foreign affairs, the subject received dangerous attention from the Hon. Wm. E. Robinson, of New York. He was a venerable gentleman of very striking appearance and quite deaf. He had a peculiar power as a public speaker that always held the attention of the House. His mission to Congress seemed to be to force violent action against Great Britain on account of the imprisonment of Irish American suspects. He had said that "there was not courage enough in this Congress to say whether the British lion's tail was to be wrung or the American eagle's neck twisted;" and also the House having under consideration the resolution reported from the Committee on Foreign Affairs in regard to American citizens in British prisons—

MR. ROBINSON of New York, said:

MR. SPEAKER: A short time since, before the assembling of this Congress, I had the pleasure of visiting this capital and accidentally met the accomplished and polite gentleman who formerly

represented Her Majesty the Queen of England here. In our conversation he informed me that he had been very busy. He had been so very busy that he hardly got any sleep, and, with a smile on his benevolent face, he said: "I have been dreadfully bothered with your hogs." It will be remembered that at that time some American hogs that had got a bad character for health, and were suspected of trichinosis, had been taken over to England, and the whole British Empire was filled with discussions and protestations on that subject. The wires beneath the Atlantic thrilled and throbbed with British protests against their importation and with American protests against any prohibition of the traffic. At that time I knew that American citizens who had fought for the preservation of your Union, whose blood, spilled upon your battle-fields, had given additional redness to your stripes and a brighter glory to your stars, were thrown into English prisons, with no crime alleged against them, and were treated like felons, and that we could not by any effort get their cases either before the Government or before the people of these United States. And I was led to exclaim as I parted with Sir Edward Thornton, "Oh, that we only had as much attention and as much protection given to a live American citizen as there are given to a dead Cincinnati hog!" But so it was, sir, that while American diplomacy vindicated the rights of dead animals, our living citizens were languishing in prisons, and we could not get the State Department or any other Department to bring up their cases and have them examined, so that proper protection might be given them.

He was now speaking to a motion to discharge the Committee on Foreign Affairs from further consideration of his Irish resolutions, and he was lashing the members of that Committee for their inaction with very sharp satire and keen ridicule to the great amusement of the House. He used our case in his speech, as follows:

I cannot help contrasting the prompt manner in which our Government went to the relief of some American citizens in Persia when compared with our slow movement for the relief of those in Ireland. On the 20th of November, 1880, Mr. R. R. Dawes, then a member elect of this Congress, wrote from Marietta, Ohio, to our Secretary of State, Mr. Evarts, stating that a number of Pres-

byterian missionaries, including his sister, her husband and family, were threatened with danger at Oroomiah, in Persia, from the Mohammedan population who accused them, wrongfully as they claimed, with complicity with the Koordish Sheik, whose forces were then confronting Oroomiah. This country had no diplomatic representative in Persia, and so, on the 26th of November, 1880, Mr. Evarts wrote to Mr. Lowell, our minister in London, asking him to solicit the interference of the British minister in Persia to save our citizens. On the 11th of December Mr. Lowell sent a cable dispatch to Mr. Evarts stating that he had seen the foreign secretary, that the secretary had telegraphed to the British minister, and that the Persian Government had instructed its representative at Oroomiah to protect the American missionaries. Mr. Lowell received Mr. Evarts's dispatch on the 7th of December; the same day he wrote to Lord Granville, and on the 12th Lord Granville had an answer back from Teheran, in Persia, which he sent to Mr. Lowell, informing him that the Persian Government had telegraphed to Oroomiah to protect the American citizens. Thus in three days from the receipt of Mr. Evarts's letter Mr. Lowell had secured our citizens in Persia. It takes him twelve months before he can ask for protection to a citizen in Ireland."

It is likely that we were benefitted by Mr. Robinson. Inaction kills a thousand measures in Congress where opposition kills one. Mr. Robinson's violent attack upon the Committee on Foreign Affairs, coupled with his berating of England, may have spurred that Committee to action upon a measure involving recognition of England's good will and kindly service.

CHAPTER V.

THREE MONTHS' DELAY—BILL REPORTED ESTABLISHING DIRECT RELATIONS WITH PERSIA—BILL GOES ON CALENDAR NO. 6743—OBSTACLES IN WAY OF SECURING CONSIDERATION—BILL ORDERED TO BE CALLED UP ON SUSPENSION DAY—BILL BEFORE THE HOUSE—HOLMAN RISES TO OBJECT—ELOQUENT SPEECH OF GOVERNOR CURTIN—PASSAGE OF THE BILL—SPECIAL MEETING OF SENATE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS—BARELY A QUORUM PRESENT—FAVORABLE ACTION OF COMMITTEE—BILL PASSED BY SENATE WITH AN AMENDMENT—HOUSE CONCURS AND THE WORK IS DONE.

Despite all the spurring that could be applied, it was nearly three months before the measure again made a public appearance. Other matters with prior claim or of superior public interest commanded the attention of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The usual time for the summer adjournment of Congress had already passed when, on July 15, 1882, the Committee reported back to the House. Their report, in full, is too long for insertion here. It fully presents the case as herein set forth, and concludes as follows:

“Your committee therefore report herewith as a substitute for the joint resolution (H. Res. 195) a bill for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the Government of Persia, and for the appointment of a consul-general and charge d'affaires, who shall hold his office at Teheran, the capital of Persia, and recommend that the bill do pass.”

The bill reported and recommended for passage was placed on the Calendar as No. 6743. There was absolutely no possibility, under the rules of the House, of its being reached in its regular order during the existence of the 47th Congress. It had joined the innumerable caravan that die on the Calendar. On the last six days of the session bills could be taken up out of their order

and put upon final passage under a suspension of the rules. But these favored measures were such alone as might be selected by order of the Committee from which they had been reported to the House. Mr. Williams had especial charge of this bill as Chairman of the sub-committee to whom it had been referred. But his support by such strong men of the Committee on Foreign Affairs as Kasson, who, when Minister to Austria, had himself suggested establishment of commercial relations with Persia, and Orth, an ex-Minister to Austria, and Rice, of Massachusetts, was, doubtless, what enabled him to secure the order of that Committee to call up this bill in preference to others pressing for so great a favor. The Committee directed Mr. Williams to put the bill upon its passage under suspension of the rules.

On August 3d, five days before the adjournment of Congress, when the House was acting under the, so-called, Pound rule, under which four members rising in their places to object, had power to prevent the consideration of a bill, the Committee on Foreign Affairs brought the bill before the House for final passage. It was indeed "now or never," for the dagger of parliamentary objection on the open floor could still assassinate the whole effort. This fate, as will be seen, we narrowly escaped.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PERSIA.

MR. WILLIAMS, of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I am directed by the Committee on Foreign Affairs to move that the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H. B., 6743) to establish diplomatic relations with Persia, and to ask for its present consideration.

The bill was read, as follows:

"Be it enacted, &c., That section 1675 of the revised Statutes of the United States be and the same is hereby amended by inserting after the words 'Liberia, \$4,000,' the words 'charge d'affaires and consul-general at Teheran, Persia, \$5,000.' "

MR. HOLMAN. Let the accompanying report be read ; I understand the salary is fixed at \$5,000.

MR. WILLIAMS, of Wisconsin. The salary is \$5,000 for charge d'affaires and consul-general.

MR. HOLMAN. What necessity is there for including consul-

general? We have no commercial relations of any consequence with Persia which would require a consul-general.

MR. WILLIAMS, of Wisconsin. The report will fully explain the facts involved.

MR. CURTIN. Let the report be read.

MR. BURROWS, of Michigan. I believe, Mr. Speaker, it will be much more satisfactory if the gentleman from Wisconsin be permitted to explain the bill.

MR. WILLIAMS, of Wisconsin. I can explain it in a moment. The bill provides for a charge d'affaires and consul-general, at Teheran, Persia, at a salary of \$5,000. It is recommended by two Secretaries of State, by the ex-minister of the United States at St. Petersburg, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. Curtin,) by our ex-minister, Mr. Foster, and by Mr. Kasson, our ex-minister to Austria; and these gentlemen are all perfectly acquainted with the situation, and the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs is unanimous.

The American missionaries were attacked and their lives were in danger, and they had to appeal to the minister of Great Britain, who interfered and saved their lives.

Mr. Kasson, in a letter to the Department of State, sets forth that the trade with Persia is from \$18,000,000 to \$20,000,000 a year; \$12,000,000 imports and \$7,000,000 exports, and that American cottons may be introduced there, and that American petroleum has already found its way into that country.

In my limited time that is all I can say or desire to say in regard to the bill. The salary is exceedingly low; but the committee did not feel authorized to recommend any higher compensation. If objection is to be reserved, I hope by unanimous consent the gentleman from Pennsylvania, (Mr. Curtin,) ex-minister to St. Petersburg, will be permitted to be heard on this question with which he is fully acquainted.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection?

MR. HOLMAN. I hope the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. Curtin) will be heard, the right to object being reserved.

MR. WILLIAMS, of Wisconsin. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania five minutes.

The SPEAKER. Objections must now be called for. Is there

objection? *The Chair hears none.* There are still left five minutes for debate.

MR. WILLIAMS, of Wisconsin. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

MR. CURTIN. If we are to continue to extend our relations to foreign countries, surely there should be no objection to our having relations with this the oldest government in the world and a country now growing to great consequence commercially. A glance at the map will show that Persia, lying between the possessions of Great Britain on the east and Russia on the north, is likely to grow in consequence in the diplomatic relations of those countries, and others known in diplomacy and the great powers. During my residence in St. Petersburg the Persian minister, a very intelligent gentleman, approached me twice to urge me to ask my Government to open diplomatic and commercial relations with that country; and I understand the late minister to Russia, Mr. Foster, made a communication to the State Department in which he reflected the wishes of the Government of Persia, and strongly recommended all this bill proposes. The report of the committee sets forth very fully the commerce of this country. I have noted some facts bearing on the importance of establishing relations with it which may be of interest to the House.

I will state to the House that the population of Persia is nearly, if not quite, 8,000,000. Its territory is three times greater than that of France. It has many large and opulent cities. Tabreez has a population of 120,000; Teheran 85,000; Meshed 70,000; Ispahan 60,000, and Yezd 40,000. The foreign commerce is twenty millions per year; the imports twelve and a half millions in round numbers; and the exports six and a half millions. And here is an item in their commerce which may be of consequence and should very properly enter into the consideration of the subject as of commercial importance to this country. They imported into the city of Tabreez alone last year \$4,000,000 worth of cotton, mostly grown in the United States, and first shipped to Great Britain and thence to Persia, there manufactured into fabrics. A recent writer says:

"Persia can probably never again rule the world as under Cyrus, but the wheel of history will soon bring round the day when its

commercial and religious influences will again reach over a hundred millions of people."

The geographical position of Persia is most important. The American missionaries whose labors began in 1834 have done very useful work. When they arrived in the country reading was almost unknown. Now they have flourishing schools at Oroomiah, Tabreez, Teheran, and other places. They have introduced printing and made modern Syriac, which is spoken by the Nestorian Christians, a written and printed language, a medium of enlightenment, though before their arrival the existence of this language—which is substantially the same as that used in the beginning of the Christian era, and may have been the language in which the Sermon on the Mount was given to mankind—was unknown to scholars. Ernest Renan, the great French scholar and academician, in speaking of this event, says:

"The American missionaries of Persia, who should ever be connected with one of the most striking events in the history of the Semitic languages, undertook to give some regularity to this tongue, which they named Neo-Syriac. A grammar of this language, which now possesses a fairly good literature and journals, was published by Rev. Mr. Stoddard."

This well-authenticated historical fact must be gratifying to American citizens, and our Government should promptly afford protection to those who have done so much in the absence of even friendly offices of the Government. As is shown by the report of the committee, American missions in that country have heretofore been generally under the protection of the British embassy and other officials, who, it will be noted, speak in praise of our country in mission work.

The relations of Great Britain with Persia are seriously disturbed, and the power to protect the subjects of that government is of doubtful tenure.

We have more missionaries there than any other country, and many of the more intelligent of them have expressed their fears of safety if the British protection should be withdrawn from them.

Surely those of our citizens who in self-sacrifice have penetrated the darkness which has covered that historical land, given them the Bible and its precepts, established schools, and revived its literature, deserve the active protection of this Government.

We have commercial relations with that country which if fostered and protected will grow and enlarge.

All the great trading nations of Europe are represented at the capital of Persia by accredited ministers and by consular service at their chief cities, and we, a nation of traders, given to commercial and manufacturing activities, should be represented where others are, and the American citizen be followed by the protection in his life and rights and pursuits where others are.

It is time, full time, this great people should be asserted and their presence felt all over the world. Where the enterprise of the American man calls him let him feel that his Government is around and about him in his protection and his interest, and to that end we should be intelligently represented where the other great powers send their representatives. It may result to our business profit and commerce, independent of the protection demanded by those who are craving our literature and religion, as when we broke the crust of thousands of centuries of caste and superstition and opened Japan to the commerce of the world.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time; and being engrossed, it was accordingly read the third time, and passed.

Gov. Curtin was venerable in appearance, graceful and effective in delivery, with a clear and pleasant voice. He was one of the most dignified and finished orators in Congress. He always commanded the respectful attention of the House. The Governor took great interest in the measure, and exerted himself to aid its passage in various effective ways.

LETTER TO MRS. SARAH J. SHEDD, IN PERSIA, GIVING AN ACCOUNT
OF STEPS TAKEN TO SECURE THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.,
WASHINGTON, D. C., August 6, 1882.

MY DEAR SISTER: It is with great gratification and some exultation that I write that the United States has established diplomatic relations with Persia. The bill has passed both Houses and will be signed by the President (if it has not already been) to-morrow. I fully appreciate the benefit to two nations, and to the progress of civilization and christianity in the world, which will ensue. But these considerations could not have kept me at

the work to the exclusion of other pressing demands. So I want you and the missionaries to know and feel that you and they have been the real influence behind my action. To pass a measure through Congress on its merits solely is a herculean task. The power of a public demand is what moves Congress to action.—There was no assistance rendered outside of Congress that signified anything. The great religious papers either ignored or so distrusted success in the matter, that they passed it by in silence. The Boards of Missions, so far as I know, did nothing to encourage or assist. But fortunately I found in two ex-ministers to Austria, (Kasson and Orth,) and Governor Curtin, ex-minister to Russia, members of Congress, intelligent, earnest and powerful friends, and Mr. Rice, of Massachusetts, took great interest in the subject. Colonel John W. Foster, the ex-minister to Russia, who now lives in Washington, and who had met the Sepeh Salar at St. Petersburg, was, also, a very active and valuable friend. He helped us with the Senate. Fortunately Mary and I boarded at the same house, last winter, with Hon. Charles G. Williams, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, whose friendship and aid in the position he occupied, was of the greatest value. My first idea was to follow the suggestions of Mr. Labaree, and have an official visit to Teheran by the United States' Minister at Constantinople, and I so framed the legislative proposition that this could be done. But my friends, before named, finally agreed that direct relations should be established. The next point of consideration was the grade of the mission. So little was known of Persia that it was feared that the House would not agree to the bill with the title of Minister Resident. This question was finally determined by the Committee on Foreign Affairs in adopting the title Charge d'Affaires and Consul-General. I am sorry that the title Minister Resident was not adopted. (This was corrected at the next session of Congress.)

We could have passed it in this form. After all these questions were settled the essential matter was to get consideration by the House. We had to act under a certain rule of the House where four members objecting had power to prevent the consideration of the bill. We waited and waited for the auspicious moment. Last Thursday it came. When the Committee on Foreign Affairs was

called in its order Mr. Williams launched our bill on the stormy sea of an excited and impatient House. Judge Holman of Indiana was on his feet at once to object. The arrangement was for Williams to offer, with explanation, Gov. Curtin to advocate, and it was my task to run down the objectors. Speaker Keifer demanded to know explicitly if the gentleman (Holman) desired to object. By that time Williams, a fine speaker, was under way, and I was pleading with Holman. He was standing on the floor to insist upon his objection. The appeal that silenced him at this crisis was: "Judge, remember that my sister is there in peril, and let this go for me." He said, "All right, Dawes," and took his seat. Gov. Curtin's venerable form and eloquent words stilled the House, and no other man raised a voice to object. By such slender threads hang important things. If Holman had not given way, the bill would have been thrown aside for its regular order next winter or perhaps never. As there remained but a day or two of the session, action in the Senate was necessary at once. Mr. Williams, Mr. Kasson, Gov. Curtin and Col. Foster all went there to help, and Senator Windom, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations got a quorum of his committee together Friday morning, August 4th, for this special purpose. I went before the Senate committee and presented the matter. After hearing me they adopted a favorable report and directed the Chairman, Senator Windom, to offer the bill for passage by the Senate. Within ten minutes after the Senate met that day the Senator asked that the bill be considered by unanimous consent and the bill was passed. The Senate amended the bill and yesterday the House concurred in the Senate amendment. As soon as the bill was passed I went to the Secretary of State to urge, first, that he telegraph officially to the Persian Government what had been done. This I hoped might be of benefit to you if a crisis was already upon you; 2d, that no man not in thorough sympathy with missionary work should be appointed to go to Persia; 3d, that the appointee should be an educated gentleman, and able to speak one of the languages most used there. I will ask Gov. Curtin to go to-morrow and urge the Secretary of State to telegraph as promised. I can not refrain from saying that as signally as when the messenger arrived at Oroomiah announcing intervention for your relief, all obstacles

have been removed by an over-ruling Power and I can not doubt that this step now taken will result in good to the mission and good to every interest of civilization, commerce and human progress that may be involved.

Your affectionate brother,

R. R. DAWES.

Five Senators, a quorum, were present at the meeting of the Committee on Foreign Relations. They were Windom of Minnesota, Lapham of New York, Miller of California, Pendleton of Ohio, and Morgan of Alabama. They amended the bill by adding a few words authorizing the appropriation of the sum necessary. The bill came back to the House for concurrence in the amendment and Mr. Kasson of the Committee on Foreign Affairs secured that action by unanimous consent. This final action was on August 5th, 1882.

(Appendix Cong. Record, page 522.)

ON THE SUBJECT OF OUR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PERSIA.

MR. DAWES said:

MR. SPEAKER: In bringing before Congress the subject of our relations with Persia, I was moved by the necessity that has so clearly been demonstrated of a better protection for American citizens in that country. The British Government has heretofore rendered us this service. But America should protect her own citizens and, at this crisis, she can do it more certainly and effectively by direct diplomatic relations with Persia than through the agency of any other government.

It is doubtful whether at this time the British Government could render such service as it did at the time of the Koordish war. There is less deference in Persia toward the Gladstone administration, and less regard for the good-will of England than existed at that crisis. This is the information I have from there. There is also a general revival of Mohammedan fanaticism throughout the East. These circumstances seriously menace the safety of the Christian missionaries should turbulence or disorder break out. The crisis demands prompt action on the part of this Government in the discharge of its duty of protecting its own citizens.

No class of citizens abroad more richly deserve consideration of their government than the American missionaries in Persia. For

fifty years they have carried on their noble self-sacrificing work in that remote land. They have shown a devotion, a heroism, beyond praise, and they have established churches, schools and colleges, and translated the Bible and distributed it throughout the whole land, and the influence upon human progress and civilization is felt throughout Persia. By their good works, their discretion, their wisdom when in difficulty, they have commanded respect for themselves and good-will for the great nation they represent.

The wane of English influence is our opportunity in another direction. The occasion is especially favorable for promotion of commercial relations. Persia wants our commerce. Our cotton fabrics, our fire-arms, our manufactures, and our petroleum may find their way there if we open the door. England now largely controls this trade. The time is ripe, the duty imperative. Let this amendment of the Senate be concurred in, and so far as Congress is concerned the work is done of its duty of protection to its citizens.

CHAPTER VI.

SECRETARY OF STATE COMMUNICATES WITH PERSIAN GOVERNMENT.—ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS.—APPOINTMENT OF THE FIRST MINISTER TO PERSIA.—CONSIDERATIONS INFLUENCING THE SELECTION.—CONCLUSION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, August 16, 1882.

THE HON. RUFUS R. DAWES, Marietta, Ohio:

SIR: Acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant, in which you refer to your conversation with the Secretary of State in relation to communicating to the Persian Government early official notice of the action of Congress in authorizing the sending of a Charge d'Affaires and Consul-General to Teheran, I have the honor, in reply, to enclose herewith, a copy of an instruction to Mr. Lowell, the American Minister at London, from which you will see that on the 7th instant, he was instructed by telegraph to furnish the Persian Ambassador at London with full information on the subject in question.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN DAVIS,
Acting Secretary.

[Enclosure—Mr. Frelinghuysen to Mr. Lowell, No. 434, August 8, 1882, copy.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, August 8, 1882.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, Esquire, &c., London:

SIR: I sent to you yesterday a telegram, as follows:

“Lowell, Minister, London:”

“Say to Persian Ambassador that Congress authorizes sending Charge d'Affaires and Consul General to Teheran, and request him to communicate this to His Majesty, the Shah, with President's expression of good will, and his hope that this step will

promote still more friendly relations between the governments and people of the two nations.

FRELINGHUYSEN, Secretary."

This telegram was sent to you, inasmuch as the United States has no representative of any kind in Persia, and in the past the Persian Ambassador, in London, has been the medium of communication of the friendly sentiments of his government toward the United States. In obeying this instruction, you will doubtless have fully represented the feeling of pleasure with which the President and this government view the opportunity thus offered for the establishment of close ties of relation between the two countries which cannot but be reciprocally advantageous.

It is expected that our legation will be established at Teheran, within the next three months. * * * * *

I am, sir, &c., FRED'K T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

Congress adjourned on August 8, 1882. No action was taken by the Secretary of State during the recess in the matter of the appointment of the first minister to Persia under the new law. Secretary Frelinghuysen was in entire accord with the suggestions made as to the character of the man required for the position. Meanwhile applications and recommendations for the newly created office had accumulated. In his effort to find a suitable man, Mr. Frelinghuysen had sought the advice of the Rev. Dr. Ireneus Prime, of New York. Dr. Prime's first choice among several excellent suggestions was Rev. Henry Jessup, D. D., late missionary to Syria.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 15, 1882.

MY DEAR SIR: I enclose a letter received this morning from the Rev. Mr. Prime. I will be glad if you will show it to Mr. Rice and to Gov. Curtin and let me know what you all think of Mr. Prime's suggestion.

Yours Truly,
FRED'K T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

To Hon. R. R. Dawes.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS,
U. S. SENATE, Dec. 22, 1882.

HON. RUFUS R. DAWES, House of Representatives:

DEAR SIR: I have to advise you that Mr. Henry H. Jessup, of

New York, has been nominated to be Charge de'Affairs and Consul General of the United States at Teheran, Persia. As you took interest in the establishment of said office I have to request that you will furnish the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate any information you may have as to the qualification of Mr. Jessup for the position, especially as to his familiarity with the language of the country.

Very Respectfully Yours,
W. WINDOM, Chairman.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM NEW YORK DEC. 20, 1882.

HON. F. T. FRELINGHUYSEN, Washington, D. C.:

Please tender to President Arthur my cordial thanks for the high honor conferred upon me by the nomination to the Persian Court, but it will be impossible for me to accept.

HENRY H. JESSUP.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 20, 1882.

HON. R. R. DAWES, House of Representatives:

MY DEAR SIR: You will see from the enclosed telegram that Mr. Jessup has declined the Persian Mission. If you can conveniently do so, it might be well for you to see me again as to the selection of another gentleman.

Yours Truly,
FRED'K T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 30, 1882.

HON. R. R. DAWES, House of Representatives:

MY DEAR SIR: I enclose a list of gentlemen who have been recommended for the Persian Mission, with some notes as to their qualifications for the office. I should be glad if you would confer with Mr. Rice and Gov. Curtin and let me know your choice. I confess I am a little prejudiced in favor of * * * * *

Yours Truly,

FRED'K T. FRELINGHUYSEN.

In the list referred to in Secretary Frelinghuysen's letter occurs the following:

"S. G. W. Benjamin. Has been in the East some twenty years.

Knows Greek, Turkish and French languages. Published book called 'The Turk and the Greek.' Recommended by Rev. R. R. Booth, N. G. Clark and others."

As it is no part of this history to record what might have been but was not, no allusion will be made to the excellent gentlemen recommended but not selected. It was thought advisable to have (1) a gentleman fitted by education and association to represent the government respectably; (2) one who could speak some one of the languages in common use in Persia; (3) one who would certainly accept the office; (4) one who would be, at least, in sympathy with the work of the missionaries, who comprised the body of American citizens in Persia, and it was thought best that the first Minister should go from America to Teheran, as it would be more impressive to the Persian government. It was not thought advisable that any one engaged in Missionary work in Persia should be appointed. It might give a political cast to the work, the evil effects of which it would take long to overcome. Mr. Rice and Mr. Dawes joined in the selection of Mr. Benjamin. Governor Curtin did not join in this recommendation.

The office could not have been conferred in a manner more honorable to the recipient, who was personally a stranger to all concerned in the selection.

In conclusion it can be truly said that no consideration of mere political expediency marred the work of the friends of this measure in Congress. There was zealous devotion to a good purpose, faithful and judicious effort, and each active worker was essential in his place. May the good results hoped for be accomplished in wise and honorable conduct of our diplomatic relations with Persia, by those charged with the responsibility.



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